

1. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting threaded tubular members for use in a wellbore, comprising:

rotating ~~two threaded members relative to one another~~ a first threaded tubular member relative to a second threaded tubular member, wherein the two threaded members define a shoulder seal;

~~detecting a shoulder condition during an event during relative rotation between the two threaded members~~ rotation of the first threaded tubular member by calculating and monitoring a change of torque with respect to rotation;

~~stopping relative rotation between~~ of the first threaded member when reaching a predefined rotation value from the shoulder condition ~~reaching a predefined value from the detected event.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising measuring torque and rotation at regular intervals.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the shoulder condition occurs when surfaces of the threaded members forming the shoulder seal engage.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined rotation value is selected according to geometry of the threaded members.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising measuring relative relaxation rotation ~~between the two threaded members~~ of the first threaded tubular member.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising determining acceptability of relaxation rotation ~~between the two threaded members~~ of the first threaded tubular member.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring torque and rotation at regular intervals; ~~[[,]]~~ and detecting a seal condition ~~wherein detecting an event comprises detecting a first event and a subsequent second event and the detected event is the detected second event.~~

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of connecting threaded tubular members for use in a wellbore, comprising:~~ The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~rotating two threaded members relative to one another;~~

~~measuring torque and rotation at regular intervals;~~

~~detecting an event during relative rotation between the two threaded members;~~

~~determining acceptability of a value measured at the event~~ shoulder condition;

and

~~stopping relative rotation between the threaded members after determining acceptability of the measured value if the measured value is unacceptable.~~

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the measured value is a torque value.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the measured value is a rotation value.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating a target ~~torque~~ rotation value based on the ~~detected event~~ shoulder condition irrespective of a maximum torque limit.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising calculating a target ~~torque~~ rotation value based on the ~~detected event~~ shoulder condition irrespective of a maximum torque limit.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising detecting a seal condition ~~wherein detecting an event comprises detecting a first event and a subsequent second event, and wherein~~ determining acceptability of the measured value comprises determining acceptability of a change in value between a value measured at the ~~first event~~ shoulder condition and a value measured at the ~~second event~~ seal condition ~~and stopping relative rotation comprises stopping relative rotation between the threaded members after determining acceptability of the change in measured values if the change in measured values is unacceptable.~~

19. (Original)        The method of claim 18, wherein the measured values are torque values.

20. (Original)        The method of claim 18, wherein the measured values are rotation values.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the measured values are torque and rotation values ~~and stopping relative rotation comprises stopping relative rotation between the threaded members after determining acceptability of the change in rotation and torque values if either the change in rotation or torque is unacceptable.~~

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A system for connecting threaded tubular members for use in a wellbore, comprising:

a power drive unit operable to rotate a first threaded tubular member relative to a second threaded tubular member ~~cause rotation between a first threaded member relative to a second threaded member~~;

a power drive control system ~~operably~~ operably connected to the power drive unit, and comprising:

a torque detector;

a turns detector; and

a computer receiving torque measurements taken by the torque detector and rotation measurements taken by the turns detector; wherein the computer is configured to perform an operation, comprising:

rotating two threaded members relative to one another the first threaded tubular member relative to the second threaded tubular member, wherein the two threaded members define a shoulder seal;

detecting a shoulder condition during an event during relative rotation between the two threaded members rotation of the first threaded tubular member by calculating and monitoring a change of torque with respect to rotation;

stopping relative rotation between of the first threaded members member when reaching a predefined rotation value from the shoulder condition reaching a predefined value from the detected event.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the power drive unit is a power tongs unit and the power drive control system is a power tongs control system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the power drive unit is a top drive unit and the power drive control system is a top drive control system.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the computer comprises a target value calculator for calculating a target rotation value by adding the predefined rotation value to a measured rotation value corresponding to the detected shoulder condition.
29. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the predefined value is selected according to geometry of the threaded members.
30. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising a database and the operation further comprises collecting data on a threaded connection between the two threaded members and storing the data in the database.
31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the operation further comprises calculating a new predetermined value by statistically analyzing the data in the database.
32. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises calculating the predefined value according to statistical analysis of data collected from previous connections.
33. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises measuring relative relaxation rotation between the two threaded members.
34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the computer comprises a connection evaluator configured to determine acceptability of relative relaxation rotation between the two threaded members.
35. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the operation further comprises issuing a dump signal to stop relative rotation between the threaded members before reaching the predefined value from the detected event so that the relative rotation

between the threaded members is stopped when reaching the predefined value from the detected event.

36. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the top drive comprises a gripping member coupled to an inside the first threaded member.

37. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the top drive comprises a torque head coupled to an outside of the first threaded member.

38. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the operation further comprises lowering the two threaded members together after reaching the predefined value.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the two threaded members are casing and lowering the threaded members comprises rotating and lowering the threaded members while simultaneously injecting drilling fluid into the threaded members to drill a wellbore.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, A system for connecting threaded tubular members for use in a wellbore, comprising:

~~a power drive unit operable to cause rotation between a first threaded member relative to a second threaded member;~~

~~a power drive control system operatably connected to the power drive unit, and comprising:~~

~~a torque detector;~~

~~a turns detector; and~~

~~a computer receiving torque measurements taken by the torque detector and rotation measurements taken by the turns detector; wherein the computer comprises a connection evaluator configured to evaluate a current state of makeup of the threaded members according to at least one of a measured torque value and a measured rotation value both corresponding to [[a]] the detected shoulder condition and is configured to perform an operation, comprising:~~

~~rotating two threaded members defining a shoulder seal relative to one another; and~~  
~~detecting a shoulder condition during relative rotation between the two threaded members.~~

41. (Original)      The system of claim 40, wherein the at least one measured value is torque.
42. (Original)      The system of claim 40, wherein the at least one measured value is rotation.
43. (Original)      The system of claim 40, wherein the at least one measured value is rotation and torque.
44. (Original)      The system of claim 40, wherein the computer further comprises an event detector configured to detect a first event and a second event, wherein the second event is the shoulder condition.
45. (Original)      The system of claim 44, wherein the first event is a seal condition occurring upon sealing contact of sealing surfaces defined by the threaded members.